



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

January 30, 2018

10:00 AM

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Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy,  
Catherine Ushka, Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

**Present:** 3 - Ushka, Thoms and Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - McCarthy

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 10:19 a.m.

## Briefing Items

- 1. [18-0078](#)** Economic Development Committee 2017 Year-End Report  
[Tadd Wille, Executive Liaison to the Economic Development Committee]

At approximately 10:13 a.m., Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager, introduced Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, to provide a brief overview of the Economic Development Committee 2017 year-end report.

**MOTION: Mayor Woodards moved to approve the Economic Development Committee 2017 year end report.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.**

**Ayes:** 3 - Ushka, Thoms and Woodards  
**Absent:** 1 - McCarthy
- 2. [18-0079](#)** Neighborhood Business District Program Activity No. 2 of 2 (Informational briefing)  
[Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, CED - Neighborhood Business District Revitalization]

At approximately 10:15 a.m., Shari Hart, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development, presented an update on the Neighborhood Business Districts Economic Activity Report focusing on the Economic Development Strategic Framework Plan, Neighborhood Business District Program and an update on the recent, current, and planned activities.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here at 10:19 a.m.

Ms. Hart stated the strategic framework strengthening retail has had development in the Lincoln Business District, South Tacoma, Stadium District, Hilltop, Ruston Point Defiance, 6th Avenue District, Old Town, Proctor, and the Fern Hill Neighborhood. The strategic framework creating a walkable and vibrant environment has had development including Lincoln streetscape, pedestrian waste cans throughout 6th Avenue, Hilltop, and Stadium, over the street banner poles, Ruston Point Defiance roundabout, Amtrak Station, Amtrak and Sounder platforms, Sound Transit trestle, East 25th streetscape and conversion to one, and Puyallup Avenue corridor design. The strategic framework to support adaptive reuse and infill development has occurred with the Stadium Apartments, Madison 25, Koz Development, Pierce Transit's Transit Oriented Development, McKinley-The Station Artist Lofts, Valhalla Hall, Hilltop, Lincoln-Starbucks, and Tacoma Narrows mixed use project and rezone.

Discussion ensued regarding feedback from the Business District Association and Cross District Association on policy changes and future communication. The Cross District Association has changed their meeting schedule to be the 3rd Wednesday of each month to better meet the needs of the Tacoma City Council and business owners.

3. [18-0080](#) Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) intro (informational briefing) [Keith Armstrong, Community & Economic Development Supervisor, CED - Housing Division]

At approximately 10:48 a.m., Keith Armstrong, Community and Economic Development Supervisor, Community and Economic Development (CED), introduced Clifford Armstrong III, Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP) Coordinator, CED, to provide an introduction and program overview of LEAP. Mr. Armstrong stated the construction industry is the focus of the LEAP program and only applied to Public Works projects or improvements that are funded with City dollars. Mr. Armstrong discussed who qualifies, goals, and the enforcement of meeting expected goals, data collected, and the future business needs to maintain a sustainable competitive economic environment for the LEAP program.

Discussion ensued regarding LEAP funding, the process to hire citizens in the distressed areas of Tacoma, challenges in the mechanics of the program, a potential roster of eligible people available to work in Tacoma, past penalties, quantity of enforcement dollars and improved software for staff to better handle working with LEAP.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [18-0081](#) February 13, 2018 - Annual Business Improvement Area (BIA) update; Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) proposed code changes; Small Business Enterprises (SBE) introduction

Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on February 13, 2018, and will include an update on the Annual Business Improvement Area, Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program, and Small Business Enterprise introduction.

## Other Items of Interest

Discussion ensued regarding proposed topics for future Economic Development Committee meetings such as the Puyallup Avenue corridor connection to the Link and planned routes as well as following the development of the idea and plans from the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee to better understand the economic impacts.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Robert Thoms, Chair

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Lauren Ryker, City Clerk's Office